

ORIGINAL

OPEN MEETING AGENDA ITEM

TANQUE VERDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

September 6, 2012

Chairman Gary Pierce  
Arizona Corporation Commission  
1200 West Washington  
Phoenix, AZ 85007-2996



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Arizona Corporation Commission

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**Re: Tucson Electric Power Company's Application for Approval of its 2011-2012 Energy Efficiency Implementation Plan, E-01933A-11-0055**

Dear Chairman Pierce and Commissioners,

My name is Karen Hla and I am a teacher at Tanque Verde Elementary School in Tanque Verde Unified School District in Tucson. An important component of our science education curriculum is participation in TEP's *Bright Students: The Conservation Generation* energy efficiency and conservation outreach program. I participated in the *Bright Students* program for the past two years and it has added a hands-on interactive program that reinforces my curriculum in a unique way. The students actively participate and see the effects of their energy use on the environment and this brings the learning full circle back to them. This is the most important part of teaching young students; show them how they can make changes that will have an impact on themselves and the world around them.

Each student received a green energy conservation bag that contained an LED nightlight, power strip, low-flow shower head, faucet aerator and other items. As an assignment students had to submit a picture of themselves installing at least one of the items in their home. Of the fifty students in my classes, forty-five students received full credit for the assignment and I had to give over half of these students extra credit for the assignment because they took multiple pictures of themselves installing different items. This also allowed students to explain the importance of these items to others at their home, thus showing that a one hour presentation impacted the students and immediately the valuable information was transferred to others around them. This indicates a successful program.

I am personally and professionally a strong supporter of Tucson Electric Power Company's energy efficiency programs. I support Judge Rodda's recommended opinion and order and I also encourage you to approve the energy efficiency plan before you at the September open meeting. This plan provides important opportunities to help ratepayers reduce energy costs and provides area students with wonderful opportunities to fully explore and understand how energy efficiency and conservation measures relate to and benefit their own lives.

This plan has undergone roughly two years of careful consideration and has the strong support of the Tucson community. Delaying it further will only hurt Tucson's ratepayers, local economy, and children. TEP's *Bright Students: The Conservation Generation* program is a highlight for my students and I. The educational and real-life gains are immense.

Best regards,

*Karen Hla*

Karen Hla

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2600 N. Fennimore Tucson, AZ 85749 529.749.4244 FAX 520.749.4292

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